THE EXAMINER.

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THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 231.

DINNER GIVEN TO MR. COBBETT, AND THE FALSE CLAIMS OF HIM AND OF OTHERS TO BE CONSIDERED MEN OF PATRIOTISM.

PERSONALLY unconnected as we have hitherto been with any of the leading politicians of the day, even of what is called our own "Party," and convinced as we are of the utility of remaining so, we had doubts at first whether it was necessary for us to make any observations on this subject, and whether it would not be better to let our conduct and writings speak for themselves, without caring to make any other distinction between our own line of action, as Reformists, and that of any other persons, who may chuse to call themselves such. But so much misrepresentation occurs in all public matters,—errors are so apt to gain a head and to think themselves right and reputable unless they are exposed, and above all, the cause of Reform is likely to suffer so materially from unworthy advocates, that we should be wanting in justice both to ourselves and to the public, did we not treat this ridiculous Dinner as it deserves, and push down with our pen these new fortifications of boiled and fried, in which the Cobbetism valour would entrench itself.—The task indeed is no very difficult one, but it is a very good and necessary; and we are to be deterred from it neither by the cries of the pretenders above-mentioned, who have all our hearty permission to give us the honour of their abuse,—nor by the horror of the fortified person himself, who should not pretend to be so valorous,—nor even by certain praises which we understand were bestowed upon us the other day in the *Political Register*. The Editor has not seen these praises, nor is he anxious to do so; for whatever value they may acquire from the talents of the bestower, is utterly done away by his meanness towards his cause, his injustice to other people, and his panegyricks upon those worthless pretenders to Reform, with whom we are anxious not to be confounded. In fact, when we consider his own sense of what is right and laudable, when we reckon up the number of reasonable dressings he has had from the *Examiner*, and when we remember, above all, his treatment of Mr. DRAKARD, whom he had the insolence to abuse for a pretended want of courage, after he had himself given an example of the most wretched timidity,—we are inclined to place his good word, on the present occasion, to any thing in the world but generosity; and it has very forcibly impressed us accordingly.

The reader is already acquainted with our opinion respecting these dinners in general; and therefore, without stopping to repeat our reasons for thinking them useless and unworthy in a sensible cause, and ridiculous or dangerous in a foolish or perverted one, we shall proceed, without more ado, to consider the object and result of the one before us, for this is the natural division of the subject, the object having been to sanction all that has been said and done by Mr. COBBETT in the character of a Reformist, and the result having been to give the public the very reverse impression of what a set of Reformists ought to have sanctioned. In the latter part, however, the former is necessarily involved, so that we shall confine ourselves to the consideration of Mr. COBBETT, and of the very lamentable figure he cut in the midst of his jollity. It is true, that in so doing we must pass over a good deal that might have been entertaining to the reader; we must not expatiate on the reforming abstinence and patriotic consumption of flour; we must not indulge ourselves with figuring to our blissful imaginations the quantity of good things said and the better things eaten, how much obstreperous common-place was uttered by Independent Whigs, nor at what point of time the CLIFFORDS of the table became unintelligible—we must even shut our eyes to the various pictures furnished by Mr. COBBETT himself in the grosser part of the entertainment,—how he could eat no more soup for thinking of my Lord ELLENBOROUGH, who eats so much,—how he started with horror as the cod's-head came round by his face, taking it for the glance of Judge GROSE,—how he shook with sympathy at the tremulations of the blanc-manger,—how he blessed himself when his health was drunk, to think that he really *was* a stout gentleman and well to do,—nor how, when they talked of his freedom, he was almost overpowered by his sensations, feeling his arms and knees to know whether he was not really pinned down, and looking from side to side and from friend to friend, till at last he fancied for the moment that he must still be in Newgate. But all this is no joke in reality, whatever it may be in a picture; and we are really much more inclined to groan than to laugh, at seeing the cause of Reform rendered so liable to be confounded with it's corruption, and turned into ridicule.

On the morning of this feast-day, an article appeared in the *Times* newspaper addressed to the persons about to meet, and containing, among other food for their reflections, a Copy of that remarkable Advertisement, with which Mr. COBBETT, after his condemnation to prison, intended to preface the concluding number of his *Register*, had he found reasons enough to conclude it. This Advertisement, which the reader will see in another part of the Paper, has long been handed about in manuscript, and among others, we have been in possession of a copy ourselves; but much as we agree in general with the writer

of the article in the *Times*, we confess that the publication of a manuscript withheld from press by the Author, has always appeared to us an unwarrantable proceeding, and we kept it to ourselves accordingly. Of this suppression Mr. Cobbett has hitherto taken an advantage, which a proper spirit would have disdained, and has avoided making the least reply to the numerous calls upon him for an explanation of the unfavourable reports of his conduct. The moment it appeared, however, he knew it spoke so powerfully against him as to force open an answer in spite of himself, and accordingly, when he gets up to return thanks for the "honours" done him at the table, he finds himself under the necessity of attempting to shew that he was not altogether unworthy of them. And how does he perform the task? How does he vindicate himself from the charge of having intended to put forth, in a peevish tone and for temporising reasons, a renouncement of his *Political Register*, beginning with a declaration that he had never written for gain, and ending with another, that the people had deserted him? The following are his words:—

"The advertisement therein inserted, I had sent for insertion in the *Register* a short time before I was sent to prison. It expresses my design not to continue the publication of the *Register*; because, what?—Not because I repented any thing I had done or said, *but because I was apprehensive that I could not exercise the same liberty I had heretofore enjoyed, and because I would not consent to lower the tone I had theretofore held.*—(*Repeated cheers.*)—The substance of that advertisement is the same as I had intended to have published in the newspapers: it was written on Wednesday (I beg you to bear the dates in mind), at Botley, 70 miles distant, and was transmitted from thence to London. After it had been put into the post, on reflection by Mr. Finnerty and myself (who was with me, and will bear testimony to the truth of my statement), we determined, on the following day, that *since it might be construed into an abandonment of the cause*, it would be better that it should not be inserted, *at least* until the Court of King's Bench had pronounced upon me the sentence it chose to inflict. On Thursday, therefore, it was resolved that Mr. Finnerty should proceed to London to stop the publication, as no answer could be received in time by the post. He did so; so that it is impossible that my conduct could have been influenced by any considerations of the consequences that might result to my person or property."

What a jargon is this! What a miserable attempt to confuse our understandings with words that have nothing to do with the subject! For so is to be construed all this idle gabbling about Mr. Finnerty and the post. And the beautiful piece of logic too at the conclusion! No answer could be received by return of post respecting the sentence of the Court of King's Bench,—it was resolved in consequence that Mr. Finnerty should proceed to London to stop the publication,—he did so,—and *therefore*, it is impossible to doubt the disinterestedness of Mr. Cobbett's intentions! We may as well be told that Mr. Finnerty had his boots on, and therefore it was impossible to doubt that he left Mr. Cobbett in good health.—Mr. Cobbett must have thought one of two things; he must have thought, either his prosecutors would let him go after finding him guilty, or that they would punish him after the usual method of dealing with libels; if he thought the former, he certainly will not attempt to persuade us that they would do so without some very particular consideration or promise on his part; if the latter, then he must have anticipated the measure of giving up his *Register* at any rate. What was it then that made him write the advertisement in the first instance, and draw it back again in the second? If he did not write it under any impression of probable compromise, he wrote it, we doubt not, under a feeling of resentment against the people, whom in his advertisement he manifestly confounds with the Jury; and if he did not draw it back again, from a fear that the compromise would not succeed, he did so from a fear that he should gain no more money from this people whom he accused. But Mr. Cobbett must talk a great deal more plainly, and get a better character for speaking the truth, before he can persuade us that he had no idea of a compromise; for after all that he has stated but a day or two back respecting his apprehensions of not being able to speak his mind in case of conviction, and his resolution to give up his *Register solely* on that ground, what is the fact? what is the existing, undeniable fact, now before the eyes of the public? It is this,—that in spite of his apprehensions, and in spite of his timidity's having proved them well-grounded, he has really continued his *Register*, and does continue it;—he has continued it with a manifest falling off in point of spirit, he has continued it without daring to say a word respecting the Duke of York's re-appointment, without daring to utter a syllable against the pernicious habits of the Prince of Wales, without courage, without consistency, without shame. It is amusing to think of the "repeated cheers," which his auditors gave him when he talked of his apprehensions of losing his spirit. Poor creatures! It never struck them that he really had lost it, and that by the confession of his own pen he was frightened out of his wits at the thought of going to prison! They heard none of his argument, not they. It was Master Cobbett, bless him! that was talking; and to reason from those cheers, if he had wept on the spot, they would have cried out, "How bold!"—if he had said that Reform consisted in being vicious and vulgar, they would have roared out, "How sensible!"

Unfortunately, there happened to be one person among the rational part of the company, who did not choose to be silent at hearing such jargon applauded; and he stood up to ask Mr. Cobbett a question or two, and make him stick to his text a little. This gentleman, who afterwards stated his name to be Collier, reminded Mr. Cobbett that the publication in the *Times* newspaper contained "two distinct charges, *to neither of which a satisfactory reply had been given*; 1st, that he had unworthily and indirectly attempted to raise a sum of money from the public to defray the expenses of his trial, when the public had already enabled him fully to sustain them; and, 2dly, that he had offered to discontinue his *Register*, for the purpose of inducing the Court of King's Bench to mitigate the sentence they were about to pass upon him." To this direct call for a yes or no, Mr. Cobbett began his answer by modestly suggesting, that, "*in candour*, he thought the questions should have been put to him *before this day, and that he should not have been deprived of the same medium of answering the charges as had been employed against him.*" It is impossible to help being amused at the consummate impudence of such expressions as these, and at the complete possession which the speaker must have felt of his audience's credulity. The questions *have* been put to him before, not only "in candour," but in one or two honest newspapers, which he has been

in the habit of seeing, and therefore he might have answered them long ago; but he did not chuse it, and the fact is, he would have taken as little notice of the article in the *Times*, had it appeared on any other occasion, where he could possibly have avoided exposing himself. To the charge respecting the books, Mr. Cobbett answers, "that he had refused a subscription, and hoped there was nothing offensive in that; but that when there were so many sets of the same *Register* on his hands, for which he had been prosecuted, it was not unreasonable that he should call the attention of his friends to that circumstance, and offer them for sale; for granting that he had realized property sufficient to indemnify him for all his losses, he was not therefore to be prevented from offering his books for sale, and if he had somewhat more property than that which was to be taken from him, he certainly had not a less right, on that account, to the property which he possessed." Then as to the charge respecting the discontinuance of his *Register*, "he surely had a right to discontinue his *Register* if he inclined; he had not *contracted* with the Public to continue it for any particular period; supposing he had made, according to his own ideas, *a sufficient sum of money to enable him to cease from labouring any further*, surely he had a *right to do so*; the bare circumstance of his discontinuing the publication, therefore, could have nothing in it whatever. If he had made a bargain of it indeed with the Government, he should have abandoned his principles; but he had not done so; he utterly denied it; he denied distinctly that he had ever made such a proposition,—that such a proposition had ever been made to him,—that he had ever entertained such an idea, or had even thought of it." The Report does not tell us whether Mr. Collier made particular replies to those answers, except that he declared his dissent from Mr. Cobbett respecting the optional feature he had given to his right of discontinuing the *Register*. It appeared to Mr. Collier, as it will undoubtedly appear to every one else, that "if the cause in which Mr. Cobbett's publication had been employed, were good, and if it's support in any degree depended on it, it was a duty that he owed to the cause to persist in it." But it is curious to see how completely pecuniary all Mr. Cobbett's ideas are with respect to this question; his publications always suggest themselves to his mind in the light of property; he does not "contract" with the public to continue his *Register*; "if he has *a sufficient sum of money* to enable him to cease from labouring, he has a right to do so."—With regard, however, to the books. Mr. Cobbett tells us that he had a right to sell his books, as if any body had disputed the matter. This is another betraying attempt to get rid of the question,—which was, not that he had no right, as a publisher, to sell his books, but that it was not becoming in him, as a patriot, after realizing enough money to pay his expenses, to offer them for sale in the manner that he adopted, that is to say, with a hearty recommendation of purchase to such as chose to do him a service, warning them at the same time against the common error of individuals in supposing that one person out of a number signified little or nothing, and reminding them, on the contrary, that when a good deed is to be done, every individual ought to regard the completion of it as resting with himself, and go stoutly about the business accordingly. So much for the matter of right, in selling his *Register* and in getting rid of his books. The remaining charge, that he endeavoured to make a bargain of his publication with Government, he flatly denies; and unless we can prove the contrary we are certainly bound to believe him, as far as a man of his petty habits and shuffling mode of talking can be believed. But enough remains of his offences to stamp him as a person without the proper spirit of his cause, one who talks much and does little, who betrays his small passions and prejudices at every movement, who even in the much that he does talk dares not to touch upon particular subjects which he considers dangerous to his personal interest, and in fine, who is a pretender to patriotism without having worth enough to feel what it is, or spirit enough to support it if he had. With this conviction upon our minds, and with a full recollection of what he has said and done from the commencement of the legal proceedings against him, we could have made out a much more alarming list of inquiries, had we thought proper to do so; and indeed, as he has complained of the occasion that was seized for putting to him the questions abovementioned, and begged to be considered as an ill-used journalist, because he was not allowed to meet them fairly and equally, pen to pen, paper to paper,—we now proceed to make out the said list, and do he eby give him an opportunity of refuting the charges, if he can, in his paper of next Saturday, keeping in reserve till the succeeding week the remainder of the observations we intended to make in conclusion of the present article. We do not *ask* him to undergo the task; we do not *challenge* him to the danger; for not to mention that we take no natural delight in seeing a man flouncing about in the dirt, or beating his head against impossibilities, we really feel no inclination to descend to any thing like a level with Mr. Cobbett, and in case he should think fit to answer the questions, even at this time of day, we are ready to give him every credit for doing it, without any request or suggestion on our parts.

Questions that may be put to Mr. Cobbett, *upon which his character as a true Reformist stands at issue.*

1. Did Mr. Cobbett or did he not offer to make a bargain of his *Political Register* with Government, or had he any reason to suppose that the sentence about to be passed on him by the Court of King's Bench might possibly be commuted or rendered milder by an understanding between any parties whatsoever affecting the existence of that work?

2. If Mr. Cobbett made no such offer and had no such reasons for supposition on this score; what was the actual feeling that led him to think of discontinuing his *Register?*

3. Why, in the advertisement intended to announce that discontinuance, did he tell the public, that if they considered him as giving up the people, they ought to recollect that the people had first given him up?

4. Have the people then so given him up; and if they have, what does he mean by talking of his attachment to them and their attachment to himself?

5. Why did he not give up his *Register* after all?

6. What was the necessity or the decency of his recommending in so particular a manner the purchase of his sets of the *Register?*

7. Does he or does he not think that a patriot has a right to give up a work beneficial to the public cause,

[*For the concluding lines, see the 444th page.*]

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

PARIS JULY 3.—This day, at two o'clock in the afternoon, the Senate asssembled.—The Prince Arch-Chancellor delivered the following Speech:—

"I have to communicate to the Senate, by order of the Emperor, two Treaties of Alliance, concluded in the name of his Majesty, one with the Emperor of Austria, the other with the King of Prussia. When our Sovereign, pausing in the midst of victories, terminated the first Polish war, the Court of Russia promised to adopt, without reserve, the plan wisely combined for rescuing the Continent from the influence of England, and for bringing back that power to principles more conformable to the rights of nations. Russia was not slow in departing from this salutary system. The change, on her part, being announced by certain facts, and the means of negociation being ineffectually employed during the course of the year 1811, the Emperor was bound to resort to measures which the dignity of his Crown, the interests of his People, and the danger of his allies, dictated. The Treaties which are about to be laid before you form a step towards the execution of this design."

REPORT OF THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE EMPEROR, &c.

SIRE,—The treaty between France and Russia was a treaty of offensive alliance against England. It was on your return from the conferences of the Niemen, in which the Emperor Alexander said to your Majesty, that he would be your second against England, that you determined to sacrifice the advantage victory had given you, and to repass rapidly from the state of war to the state of alliance with Russia. This alliance, which augmented for France the means of war against England, ought also to have secured the peace of the Continent. In 1806, however, Austria made war upon France. Russia, in contradiction to the precise text of treaties, afforded no aid to your Majesty. Instead of the 150,000 men which might have been put in motion, and which ought to have supported the French army, only 15,000 were brought into the field, and by the time they crossed the Russian frontier the fate of the war was decided. After this epoch, Sire, the Ukase of the 19th of December, 1810, which destroyed our commercial relations with Russia, the admission of English commerce into her ports, her armings, which from the commencement of 1811 threatened the invasion of the Duchy of Warsaw; finally, the protest respecting Oldenburgh, annihilated the alliance. It no longer existed when on both sides armies were formed for reciprocal observation.—The whole of the year 1811 was, however, spent in conference and negociations with Russia, in the hope of withdrawing, if possible, the Cabinet of Petersburgh from the war, upon which it appeared to be resolved, and to obtain a knowledge of its real intentions. It is proved to the certainty of evidence, that that Power proposed at the same time to depart from the conditions of the treaty of Tilsit, to place herself in peace with England, and to menace the existence of the Duchy of Warsaw, making use of the pretext of indemnities claimed for the Duke of Oldenburgh. Your Majesty, determined to maintain by arms the honour of treaties, the existence and integrity of the States of your Allies, has felt the importance of uniting yourself more closely to a power, to which you were already attached by words dear to your heart, and the general political interests of which are the same as those of your Majesty; for this purpose, a treaty was concluded on the 14th of this month with Austria. Every thing promises a long duration to this alliance. It assures repose to the South of Europe, and promises to France that she shall no longer be disturbed in her efforts for the re-establishment of a maritime peace.

"*Gumbinnen, June 21.*" "LE DUC DE BASSANO."

[By the treaty with Austria, the latter is to furnish *30,000* men to France. The integrity of the Turkish territories in Europe is guaranteed, and the principles of the treaty of Utrecht are recognized.]

UNITED STATES.

NEW YORK.—On the first of June a confidential Message was received from the President, accompanied by some correspondence between Mr. Foster and Mr. Munroe, and the House of Representatives sate with closed doors on the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th, and 5th.—Their proceedings had not been made public, but it had transpired, that a Declaration of War against England had passed the House by a majority of 79 to 49. The feeling of the House on the subject had been anticipated by Mr. Randolph, who, before the Message was received, moved a resolution that "it was inexpedient to go to war with England," which, after a stormy debate, was negatived by a majority of 62 to 37.—The Declaration of War by the House of Representatives was sent to the Senate, and referred to a Committee of 7, by a small majority of 17 to 15. Subsequently, however, the Senate adjourned, to wait for a communication from Mr. Foster, in answer to a letter which had been sent to him by Mr. Monroe. The British Declaration of the 22d April had been received before the President's Message was sent to Congress, and Mr. Roffe, the English Messenger, had reached Washington with dispatches for Mr. Foster, which had given rise to some further correspondence with Mr. Munroe. It was to wait for the result of this correspondence that the Senate is supposed to have adjourned.

IRELAND.

DUBLIN, JULY 2.—The Aggregate Meeting of this day was more numerously attended than any preceding assemblage. At one o'clock the Earl of FINGALL took the Chair, amidst the enthusiastic applause of his countrymen. Mr. M'DONNELL, seconded by Counsellor O'CONNELL, proposed that the Petition should be read,—it was accordingly read, and it apppeared to be a transcript of the Petition of the Dissenters of England to Parliament for universal religious freedom.

The following Resolutions were then proposed:—

Resolved. That the Petition now read be recommitted to the Board of the Irish Catholics, to be presented to the Legislature the first favourable opportunity, so that the same may be presented before the close of the second week of the ensuing Sessions of Parliament.

Resolved. That the Catholics in the different counties and towns in Ireland be again requested to use their best exertions to procure the success of our Petition.

Chevalier M'CARTHY, after an introductory speech, which was frequently interrupted by the most unequivocal marks of disapprobation and distrust, moved the two following Resolutions, as an amendment to the second Resolution proposed by Mr. M'DONNELL:—

Resolved. That, with heartfelt gratification, we observe the daily progress of liberality among our Protestant Countrymen—a liberality we consider as an earnest of the speedy fulfilment of our hopes, and rapturously hail as the cheering dawn of speedy Emancipation.

Resolved. That determined to persevere in demanding a total Repeal of the laws and disabilities by which Catholics are affected, we are nevertheless ready to listen to any *conciliatory* overture which, by removing the prejudices of many and the alarms of some, may lead to a final arrangement satisfactory to both parties.

The first part of the resolutions was highly approved, but the Chevalier M'CARTHY had hardly uttered the word "arrangement," when the feelings of the people were vented in marks of the strongest disapprobation.

Counsellors FINN and O'GORMAN answered the last speaker; but the resolutions were not read from the Chair, as out of the 3,000 Catholics in the House, a single person could not be found to second so insidious and so fatal an amendment.

JULY 4.—This day a Special Meeting of the Members of the Catholic Board assembled, in order to refute the foul calumny published in *the Courier* newspaper, on Tuesday the 30th ult., respecting the alleged Extraordinary Meeting of the Catholics of Dublin—Mr. Keogh, the person alluded to in the fabricated letter (which is stated by that venal print to have been received from Dublin), after an able and animated speech, in which he refuted every fact therein stated, moved the following Resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved. That the paragraphs inserted in the London Ministerial Newspaper, called *the Courier*, of the 30th of June and 1st of July, respecting a difference of opinion amongst the Catholic Body, as to the Resolutions of the late Aggregate Meeting of the Catholics of Ireland, are totally false, and destitute of any the slightest foundation in fact, and were calculated for the worst of purposes.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHEFFIELD, JULY 4.—At a late hour last night we received highly important and very gratifying intelligence to every friend of peace and good order. It states, that two Bow-street Officers have been in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield for nearly three weeks past, and that they had been *twisted in*, or in others words, had taken the oaths of the Luddites. By this means they have learned the proceedings and ways of these infatuated persons, and have obtained the knowledge of the depot where their arms were concealed. Warrants were yesterday (Friday) issued for the apprehension of fifty of the ringleaders, and in course of the day a great number of them were taken into custody. The actual murderer of Mr. Horsfall was discovered in a house about eight miles from Huddersfield, and is committed to Lancaster Castle to be tried for the said barbarous deed. He was seized yesterday morning, about two o'clock, within the county of Lancaster. The Queen's Bays were on duty during the whole of Thursday night and yesterday morning; and the Scotch Greys have arrived from Manchester to assist in this business. From the whole of this information we are led to believe that the Secret Committees appointed by Parliament have recommended the executive Government to immediately issue authority for the Magistrates in this Riding, and in the county of Lancaster, to seize the papers, arms, &c. and to apprehend the principals and abettors of those outrages which have so long disturbed so great a share of the country's peace.

PLYMOUTH,—Monday morning, the inhabitants of Plymouth were thrown into indescribable terror. Mr. Hyne, flour-merchant, of Old Town, Plymouth, while sitting at breakfast with his wife and two children, suddenly seized one of them, and cut its throat; he then seized the other, and on the interference of his agonized wife, he fired a pistol at her, when she fell, and he completely severed the windpipe of the second child. He finished the horrible business by blowing his own brains out with a second pistol. The consternation of the neighbours on rushing into the scene of blood, may be easily conceived. Mrs. Hyne was found living; a ball had entered her shoulder, and she had been stunned for the moment by the report of the pistol, which was held very close, and which only missed its intended effect by the agitation of Mr. Hyne. The unfortunate and wretched perpetrator of this deed was about thirty years of age, had always borne a good character, and was considered to be a man possessing property. He had transacted business on the Saturday preceding; was seen walking on the Hoe, at Plymouth, on the Sabbath evening, with his family, apparently a happy groupe; and had promised to meet several tradesmen at Plymouth-dock on Monday morning.—A Coroner's Inquest was held on Tuesday before Mr. G. Eastlake, on the bodies of Mr. Hyne and his two children, when, after a patient investigation of twelve hours, the Jury returned a verdict, that Mr. Hyne, being deranged in his mind, did, with a razor and two pistols, kill his two children and himself.—His poor wife is likely to recover of her wounds.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, June 30.

MARRIAGE ACT.

The Duke of NORFOLK moved the second reading of the Marriage Act Amendment Bill, which he thought of considerable importance, particularly with reference to cases which were every day almost to be found in the papers of attempts to set aside marriages, on the ground of their being contracted during minority without the consent of parents or guardians.

Lord REDESDALE thought that some other provision was necessary instead of the present Bill, and that some regulation should be adopted with respect to the affidavits made to procure a license for marriage, in order to secure the establishment with certainty of the fact, at the time of the application, that the parties were of full age. No act could be more abominable in a man than to make an affidavit of full age at the time of applying for a license, and afterwards to take advantage of the minority to endeavour to set aside the marriage. Some punishment ought to be annexed to the act of making such a false affidavit. The present Bill, on the contrary, tended rather to encourage the practice by legalizing such marriages.

The Bill was committed for the 22d instant.

TAX ON LEATHER.

A conversation took place relative to the new Tax on Leather, which was opposed by the Duke of BEDFORD, Earl SPENCER, and Lord LAUDERDALE, on the ground of its falling with peculiar force and hardship on the poor.—Lord LIVERPOOL replied, contending that it affected all classes in proportion to their means; that it was not a tax upon the necessaries of life as necessaries, but a tax which, whilst it fell in some degree upon the necessaries of the poor, fell also heavily upon the luxuries of the rich; and that although a poor man might pay more for a single pair of shoes, on account of their greater weight, that there was greater waste in making the shoes of the higher class, and that four or five pair of the latter would be required to last out one pair of the former.—The report was received without any amendment.—Adjourned.

PROTEST,

ON THE REJECTION OF LORD STANHOPE'S BILL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS, ON FRIDAY, JULY 30.

Because the toleration hitherto granted to Dissenters by Law is incomplete, amounting to nothing more than a partial and conditional exemption from penalties and persecutions, whereas the Bill now rejected, by recognizing the right of private judgment in matters of conscience, would have placed religious liberty on its only true and legitimate basis.

VASSAL HOLLAND, STANHOPE, NORFOLK, LANSDOWNE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, July 6.

LINCOLN JAIL.

Mr. D. GIDDY brought up the Report of the Committee on Lincoln Jail, stating, as before, the necessity of examining the prisoners; and observing, that though no doubt was entertained of the power of the House to summon them before the Committee, yet it was not deemed prudent to enforce it, as many of the prisoners were confined for crimes, and many for large debts: also, that the Assizes were approaching, when it would be requisite for the jailer and the prisoners to be on the spot. The Report concluded with mentioning the advanced state of the Session, and hoping that the Committee might be discharged.

Mr. D. GIDDY, in moving that the Report do lie on the table, said, he should soon move for a Commission to be sent down to inquire into the state of the jail.

Mr. H. SUMNER thought it his duty to state, that the evidence, as far as it went, completely exculpated Dr. Illingworth,

against whom a charge of connivance with the jailer in money transactions had been brought: the evidence, indeed, was *exparte*, being that of the jailer, but it was given in so frank a manner as to satisfy the Committee of its truth.

Sir SAM. ROMILLY said he had never before heard of this charge. Supposing, however, such a charge to have been made, he thought it was too much to assume the *exparte* testimony of the jailer as a complete refutation of it.

Mr. ELLISON observed, that the charge was implied when the Hon. and Learned Member talked of corrupt connivance with the jailer.

Sir S. ROMILLY said, that he never mentioned the word *corrupt*; that he did talk of connivance, and grounded that assertion on the Resolutions of the Magistrates, which gave directions about the prison beds; and on the reply of a Magistrate to Mr. Finnerty. As to the suggestions which had been made respecting Dr. Illingworth, the only witness who had been examined on that subject, was Mr. Merryweather, the jailer, who had expressly sworn that he had never had any money transactions with Dr. Illingsworth, nor with any other of the Magistrates; so that Dr. Illingworth was so far cleared of the imputation made against him.

Mr. D. GIDDY (Chairman of the Committee) then moved, "That a Committee be issued to inquire into what has been, and now is, the condition and state of the Prisoners in Lincoln Castle, and the conduct of the Jailer of the said Prison."—Agreed to.

PENITENTIARY HOUSE.

Mr. GOULBURN brought up a Resolution of the Committee of Supply for granting 30,000*l.* for the building of a Penitentiary House.

Sir S. ROMILLY would not oppose the Resolution, but called the attention of the House to the enormous expence of the projected Penitentiary Houses.

Mr. WHITBREAD expressed a hope that such a saving would be made in the expense of transporting convicts to New South Wales as would counterbalance the great expenditure of this new system.

The Resolution was then agreed to.—Adjourned.

Tuesday, July 7.

AUCTION BILL.

Mr. VANSITTART said, it was not his intention to appoint any very early day for the second reading of this Bill. His opinion as to its principle was unaltered, but he thought it was susceptible of some regulation. He should move, therefore, that it be read that day fortnight.

Mr. SHERIDAN said, he had come down to the House with a view to shew the injustice of the Bill; but he understood from the Right Hon. Gentleman, since he had entered the House, that it was his intention to relinquish it for this Session.

Mr. VANSITTART consented to its being read this day two months.

Mr. BROUGHAM congratulated the House upon the substantial abandonment of a measure so unjust in its operation.

CASE OF WALTER HALL.

Mr. TIGHE wished to put a question on this subject to the Chief Secretary of the Executive Government of Ireland.—Walter Hall had been tried on the 17th of February, for murder, and found guilty: he was sentenced for execution on the 19th, and he was not reprieved till the 25th. Now, he wished to know, whether judgment was staid during that time by the act of the Sheriff only?

Mr. W. POLE said, that the respite was granted by the Lord Lieutenant, the day after the trial, while the case of the culprit was considered, and which consideration led to his reprieve on the 25th.

Mr. TIGHE now wished to know whether that respite of the Lord Lieutenant was in writing?

Mr. W. POLE replied, that the respite was in writing. On the very day on which sentence was passed, one of the Judges wrote to the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sir Charles Saxton), stating strong reasons why a respite should be granted. He (Mr. Pole) was at that time attending his Parliamentary duty in England, and the first notice he received of the business, was an anonymous letter, threatening him with assassination if Walter Hall was reprieved. The sentence was commuted for transportation for life, and the man was now on his way to Botany Bay.

Mr. TIGHE now moved, that an humble Address be presented to the Prince Regent, praying that he would be graciously pleased to order a copy of any respites, reprieves, or pardons, granted by the Lord Lieutenant to Walter Hall, should be laid before that House.—Upon the question being put,

Mr. W. POLE rose, not, he said, to object to the motion, but to express his disapprobation of its tendency, so far as it went to protract the consideration of a question which ought, upon every principle of justice, to be as speedily decided as possible. He regretted that delay the more, because of the dangerous opinion which prevailed upon the subject in Ireland, where it was reported, for the basest purposes, no doubt, that Hall had not only received a free pardon, but that he had been amply rewarded as being an Orangeman. One of the Judges was firmly convinced that the prisoner had been under the influence of temporary derangement when he committed the act. he therefore applied for a respite till his case could be taken into consideration. The other Judge concurred in these opinions. He had been under the necessity of condemning the man because no plea of insanity was set up in Court; but, in his own mind, he was certainly insane at the time he committed the act.—[Here Mr. Pole read a letter from Judge Osborne to Sir Charles Saxton, in which he stated that the unfortunate man was afflicted with temporary insanity, that he was in a state of intoxication at the time, and that whenever he drank he was sure to be deranged in consequence of a wound which he had received in his head; that at *such moments* he was always *extremely loyal*, and talked of the number of rebels he had killed: that he was certainly a dangerous man, but that he was not a fit object for execution, and therefore begged that a respite might be granted. In these sentiments the other Judge concurred, and suggested that he should either be transported for life, or sent as *a Soldier* on foreign service.]—Such were the facts of the case, and he apprehended no one would say that the Lord Lieutenant had acted improperly in listening to the representation of the Judges. He would add, besides, that many testimonials of the good conduct of the individual were presented. But, the case being precisely as he had stated, he confessed he did not know to what the Hon. Gentleman's motion could tend. Did he mean to criminate the Judges for recommending the prisoner to mercy; or did he mean to criminate the Lord Lieutenant for listening to their recommendation?

Mr. WHITBREAD observed, that he also had not been without his letters, threatening assassination, and that he had been so threatened, if he dared to oppose, in his public capacity, the Right Hon. Gentleman opposite (Mr. Pole). He had opposed him, however, in spite of those threats. To be sure, there was one salvo in his letter, which he hoped was to be found also in that of the Right Hon. Gentleman; the person seeing it had no care about himself, but he had a wife and children, whom he did not like to expose: so he (Mr. Whitbread) was safe.—(*a laugh*)—With regard to this question, it did appear to him that there was great impropriety in the conduct of the Irish Government, and that such reasons as had been urged in extenuation of Hall's case, might be urged in extenuation of any case of murder. The only plea was insanity, which took place whenever he got drunk, and yet it was proposed to send him upon foreign service, where there was every opportunity of intoxication, and where his outrageous loyalty might kill half his comrades!

Lord CASTLEREAGH contended that the *prima facia* view of the case was so strongly *in favour* of Government, that he hoped Parliament would not suffer the proceedings to be brought into question.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT thought that the thanks of the House were due to the Hon. Member who brought forward a measure which involved a great constitutional question.

Mr. BROUGHAM, under the present circumstances, believed the Judges to be innocent, because he was always disposed to

lean on the side of charitable construction. The mode of disposing of the man was certainly extraordinary, and in the present stage of the business, he deprecated any discussion which must take place without the necessary information.

Mr. TIGHE contended strongly that the recommendation of the Judges was in every point of view indefensible. The man was recommended to mercy as being insane, and at the same time the Government was advised to inflict upon him the punishment of manslaughter, as though he had been *compos mentis* when he perpetrated the crime.

The question for the Address was then carried.

Mr. WALLACE moved the third reading of the East India Loan Bill; and a division took place,—For the third reading, 50—Against it, 8.—The Bill was read a third time passed.

IRISH TYTHES.

Mr. PARNELL moved the Order of the Day for the second reading of the Bill to exempt portions of land attached to cottages in Ireland, employed in the growth of potatoes, from the payment of Tythes.

Sir W. SCOTT opposed the Bill. He contended that Tythes were as much the property of the laborious clergy, as the rents of land were the property of individuals; and if the Honourable Member (Mr. Parnell) was anxious to relieve the cottagers in Ireland, he could do it much more effectually, and quite as justly, by bringing in a Bill to provide that they should pay no rent to their landlords. He moved that it be read a second time on this day three months.

Mr. BARHAM supported the Bill, on the ground that some alteration was necessary. With regard to the laborious clergy of Ireland, he thought that their engagements were much less arduous than those of the Church in England. Many of those who received large Tythes had no flocks, their cure being composed of Papists.

Mr. HAWKINS BROWN spoke on the opposite side.

Mr. TRENCH having resided many years in Ireland, and being well acquainted with the real situation of the peasantry of his native country, wished to give some information on the subject to the House. The situation of the Irish peasantry was very little known in this country. On the acres, halfs, or quarters attached to their cottages were raised the potatoes which formed *the sole provision* for their families. The rent was paid in labour to the landlord, and the poor people were subject to a kind of bondage, from which they could hardly liberate themselves. The peasantry of this class were universally Catholics, and were consequently obliged to pay a variety of dues for the support of their own Clergy. He was far from wishing to rob the established Clergy of Ireland either of their property or their reputation. Many of them were laborious and exemplary men, but others of them, who possessed enormous livings, were mostly *absentees*. He himself had objections to the Bill, but thinking that they might be removed, he should vote for the second reading The people of Ireland were impetuous, headstrong, and enthusiastic, but they might be led by kindness. A measure of this sort, to allevinte the hardships of the peasantry, would do much to destroy the influence of the factious and disaffected, who viewed with despair every thing that looked like conciliation. No man who had never been in Ireland could form an idea of the poverty of the peasantry in many districts of that country. Their habitation was generally *a mud cottage, without even a bed, and the family was compelled to sleep upon the damp floor.* There were some exceptions to this picture; but these proceeded, in most instances, from the attention of the landlords, and could not be represented as the general situation. Could relief be administered by Parliament, the peasantry would be found a faithful and affectionate people, and all the factious agitators would be filled with despair. He trusted the House would excuse him for dwelling so long on this subject,—(*Hear, hear.*)—It was the first time he had had the honour of addressing them; and he could not help thinking that by some modifications this bill might be made exceedingly useful. Why, for instance, might not compensations be made for the losses which the Clergy might sustain through it, out of the parochial rate, or *from* the assessment levied by Grand Juries?

Lord CASTLEREAGH professed his willingness and anxiety to promote the happiness of the Irish labourers as much as possible, but he could not consent that it should be done in the way recommended by this Bill, which was laying the axe to the root of individual and unalienable property.

Mr. TIGHE asserted, that the Clergy in general in the sister kingdom had comparatively little or no duties to discharge, and he enlarged upon the hardship endured by the Roman Catholic cottagers, who were compelled to pay Tythes though they received no spiritual instruction, and the only ceremony of the church which they attended was appearing when cited before the Bishop's Court. He did not see why some mode of ameliorating the rich clergy could not be resorted to, but first he wished that the poor peasant should be relieved from an unreasonable burden.

Mr. WHITBREAD dwelt with much force upon the general disadvantage resulting to agriculture from the Tything system in England and Ireland, and recommended that the subject should be seriously examined. He thought the condition of the Irish peasantry miserable in the extreme, and quoted the opinion of a friend, with whom he travelled in Poland, who affirmed that the Polish vassals were in a preferable state.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL denied the existence of the precedents alluded to by Mr. Tighe, and generally opposed the Bill, as the effect he conceived would be to lead to a general attack upon the revenues of the church in England as well as in Ireland.

The question was then put, and the Amendment was carried without a division, that the Bill be read a second time on this day three months. It was accordingly thrown out.—Adjourned.

Wednesday, July 8.

CLERKS IN THE NAVY-PAY OFFICE.

Sir F. BURDETT wished to call the attention of Government to the Clerks in the Navy Pay-Office, whose salaries were very confined. After 12 years' service, they were entitled to 200*l.* per annum; and they received no more after 20 or 30 years service. He thought the stipend should bear a stricter proportion to the length of the service.

Mr. ROBINSON answered, that some of the Clerks, whose responsibility was greater and duties more important, received 600*l.* per annum; those whose pay was 200*l.* where persons to whose business little accountableness was attached, as it consisted chiefly in mere manual labour.

Sir F. BURDETT observed, that no salaries exceeded 200*l.* a-year in the office to which he alluded, which was the Navy-Pay Office.

TOKENS.

The Report of the Local Tokens Bill was taken into further consideration.

Mr. D. GIDDY observed, that before the issue of Local Tokens were stopped, care should be taken to supply their place by a sufficient quantity of silver.

Mr. HUSKISSON, in arguing against the token currency, mentioned that at Birmingham silver had totally disappeared, on account of the issue of *leather* and *pasteboard*, to represent coin as small as a shilling. The only cure for this evil was, by restoring the proper currency of the country. He observed a fault in the present Bill that any bona-fide holder of a token would, after the 21st of March next, be liable to a penalty for demanding payment. This was a temptation to the needy, to withhold payment till that date, and then protect themselves by the law: and at Leeds, a gentleman who had issued too much of this currency had actually been recommended by a Committee, who met on his affairs, to have recourse to this plan.

The Bill was re-committed, and the Report received.

NIGHTLY WATCH.

Mr. BYNG presented a Petition from St. Leonard, Shoreditch, against the Nightly Watch Bill.

Mr. WHITBREAD presented a Petition from St. Luke's parish against the Bill, stating it would cause an increased expence of 3000*l.* a year.

Mr. BROUGHAM hoped that the rumour was true, which purported that the Bill would not be pressed.

Mr. WHITBREAD thought the Bill ought to be abandoned, as it would produce an additional expence of 14,000*l.* a year, without adding to our security.

Sir S. ROMILLY objected to the Bill, particularly as the persons who were to be protected by it petitioned against any such protection.

Mr. W. SMITH thought the present laws, if well executed, would be sufficient to our security.

Mr. GOULBURN said, there was no objection to postponing the third reading till Monday, that the petitions might be well considered.

Sir F. BURDETT said, the Bill said not a word on the subject of the Police, which was the subject of inquiry, rather than the Nightly Watch.

Mr. BROUGHAM thought the wisest course would be, to abandon the Bill at once, as it was altogether bad; he objected to legislation on sudden and temporary impulses and passions; he said the Bill went to alter the whole system of police in the metropolis, and to give to the police officers a power of an alarming description. The clause to which he had a particular objection, was that which created a new place for a superintending constable. The present constables were generally respectable h usekeepers, who acted gratuitously, and who were entitled, in no small degree, to the protection of Government. The present Bill threw a suspicion on this meritorious body of men, whilst the Committee did not think it their duty to make the least inquiry into the Police Boards of the metropolis, which were eight in number, and which might have given them, in his opinion, subject enough for animadversion. To these Boards the Bill intended to give the appointment of the new officers, as i they had not power and patronage enough already. And of what description of persons was it, he begged the House to consider, that these Boards were composed—of bankrupts, who had turned their backs upon business for a better trade;—of lawyers, who gave up their practice in Westminster-hall;—and o' lawyers who did not give up their practice in Westminster-h ll, because they had none—(*a laugh*;)—of poets in particular —yes, poets—not one of them that had not its poet. These Boards were infinitely better stocked with poets than even the Treasury, where there was but one epic poet—(*a laugh*).—They had all a famous provision of poetry, including translators, &c. Such was the composition of these Boards, and it was to them that a new power was to be given by the clause to which he alluded. The duty of the new officer would be, to go round every night, and see if the ordinary constables, the householders, were in proper attendance; that is, a power was to be given to the nominee of some "poetical Justice" of Marlborough-street, or Bow-street, or Queen-square, which he was to exercise over a number of respectable parishioners! He protested against the grant of any such power, and once more begged the House to pause before they proceeded to legislate on mere impulse, on the rash and busy principle of making laws from particular occasions.—The petition was then ordered to lie on the table.

REPORT OF THE SECRET COMMITTEE.

The Hon. H. LASCELLES brought up the Report of the Secret Committee, which was ordered to be read by the Clerk, and was substantially as follows:—

"That it was proved, from several sources, that serious and alarming disturbances had taken place for some considerable time past in the midland manufacturing districts, in the West Riding of Yorkshire, Cheshire, Lancashire, &c. That so far back as February last, large bodies of rioters were in the habit of assembling in the night time, with blackened faces and armed with various weapons, sometimes with the implements of their trades. That they broke into houses, and destroyed machinery to an immense extent; spreading terror through the whole neighbourhood of the districts above-mentioned. That they had in many cases sent threatening letters, for the purpose of extending their influence; and had in many instances put such threats into execution. That they frequently fired into houses, and had even attacked deliberately the lives of some of his Majesty's subjects. That in the atrocious case of Mr. Horsefall particularly, four men had fired at him in the open day, on the public road, and had thereby spread general alarm through the country. That the rioters also were in the habit of extorting money by threats and terror. The Committee farther stated, that they did not think it necessary to enter into the detail of all the outrages that had been committed, as they had thought it sufficient to ascertain the extent, rather than to enumerate the particulars, of the evil which existed. It appeared to the Committee, that the object of the rioters originally was, the destruction of machinery alone; but that in the progress of the disturbances, another object seemed to have arisen, by far more formidable to the public tranquillity. It appeared that large bodies of men traversed the disturbed districts, looking chiefly for fire-arms, and it was in this part of the Report material to say, that all the arms in the neighbourhood of Huddersfield had been obtained by them. They appeared also not to be actuated by any sudden impulse, but the whole of their proceedings bore the features of an organised system, and regular result from established causes. Language of a most insurrectionary nature was in habitual use with them. They had adopted and submitted to a military discipline; they had regular muster-rolls, but instead of being called over by name, they were called by number. They used rockets and blue lights for communication with each other. They had also their Committees and Sub-Committees, and Secret Committees, and had their regular signs and counter-signs, by which they made their written communications; not, however, through the ordinary channel of the post-office. They had likewise their delegates; and an oath was appointed to be taken by each member to the following purport:—'I, A. B. do solemnly swear before Almighty God, that I will never reveal the name or names of any member or members of the association, nor the place or places of the meeting of any bodies of members, or of their Secret Committees, under the penalty of being put out of the world by the first brother I meet, and of having my name blotted out for ever from amongst my countrymen: and I do further swear, that I will pursue with unceasing vengeance any member who shall be guilty of any such discovery.' It farther appeared, that two-pence a week was appointed to be paid by each member to their respectives delegates; but that, in many instances, it had been found difficult to collect this weekly tax, in consequence of which some disturbances had taken place amongst themselves. The Committee had also to state, from the evidence laid before them, that attempts had been made by the leaders in these associations to spread a general belief, that similar combinations were organizing in all the counties of Great Britain, and also in Ireland; and that higher characters, who should afterwards at a proper opportunity declare themselves, were at the bottom of the business. The Committee would not presume to conjecture what could be the ultimate object of these disturbances; but, whatever was their object, or whoever was the secret mover of them, the advantage which had been taken of the distress of the times, the system which had been instituted, the terror by which it had been enforced, the oath by which it had been confirmed, the eagerness which had been displayed in obtaining arms, and in training the rioters to the use of them,—all these circumstances combined, did not fail to impress the Committee with a true sense of the danger which was to be apprehended by the State from their continuance."—The Report being read, the SPEAKER put the question, that it do lie on the table.

Mr. PONSONBY rose to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what the nature of the measures was which it was intended to found upon this Report?

Mr. VANSITTART said, that Government had it in intention to introduce two Bills on the subject.

Mr. PONSONBY was not satisfied with this answer; he did not wish for a disclosure of any particular measure; he only wanted to know what the nature of the measures of Government might be?

Mr. WHITBREAD was surprised that the Gentlemen opposite were not immediately prepared to answer the questions put to them. The only papers which the Committee had to inspect, were those which the Government thought proper to lay before them; all other evidence was excluded by vote in the Com-

mittee; and he on that occasion in the Committee had voted in the minority. Under all the circumstances, he did not know of any enactment which could be brought forward by Government, to which he would give his consent; because he was convinced that the laws, as they stood, assisted by the late change in trade, were quite sufficient to allay the disturbances, and to meet the exigencies of the case.

The SPEAKER again put the question, that the report do lie on the table, and

Mr. PONSONBY again rose to press his former question upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as to the nature of the measures to be proposed.

Mr. VANSITTART made no reply; but Mr. BATHURST said a few words, which were not heard in the gallery.

The report was then ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. VANSITTART then moved, that it be taken into consideration on Friday next.

Mr. WHITBREAD said, he could now tell the secret of the Right Hon. Gentleman's silence. The fact was, that they themselves did not yet know what measures to propose. He acquitted them of all knowledge of what they would yet propose to the House.

Mr. BATHURST said that Government had already turned the subject in their most serious thoughts.

Mr. WHITBREAD acquitted the gentlemen even of the *labour of thinking* about it.

Sir. F. BURDETT urged the necessity of disclosing the nature of the intended measures.—[The debate then dropped.]

THE ARMY.

The House went into a Committee on the Army Prize Money Bill,—in which

Sir F. BURDETT proposed a clause to exempt soldiers and sailors remitting small sums of money, under two pounds, from paying more than as a single letter.

Mr. LONG said, that so many frauds had been proved to have been practised on the Post-office in the course of the regulations already made on this head, not only by soldiers and sailors, but by officers also, that from every enquiry and information he had been able to procure, he was afraid the object of the Hon. Baronet could not be attained, and he must, therefore, though reluctantly, oppose the motion.

The motion was negatived.—Adjourned.

Thursday, July 10.

The London Prisons, the Moorfields Improvements, the Local Tokens, the Scotch Stipends, and the Commercial Exchequer Bills Bill, were read a third time and passed.—Adjourned.

Friday, July 11.

UNITED STATES.

Mr. BROUGHAM noticed the reports from America, as to the hostile disposition of that Republic, and wished for information on the subject.

Lord CASTLEREAGH replied, that secret discussions had taken place in the House of Representatives, and consequently his Majesty's Envoy could only obtain general information; but Government did understand that a warlike measure had been resolved upon, though its precise nature had not been ascertained. This measure had been sent to the Upper House, where it had been debated, and the decision upon it postponed, till further information was obtained.

DISTURBED COUNTIES.—SECRET COMMITTEE.

The Report of the Secret Committee having been read,

Lord CASTLEREAGH made some general remarks on it, and spoke of the necessity of giving further powers to the Magistrates. In Nottingham it was thought that the present powers would be sufficient to redress the evils; but in Lancashire, Cheshire, and Yorkshire, additional magisterial powers were absolutely necessary to quell the spirit of insubordination.—The measures proposed would extend to three points;—1. To make more effectual provision respecting the seizure and security of arms.—2. To prevent tumultuary meetings and all assemblies of persons whose object was to promote the system of insubordination.—3. To give more complete and extensive powers to magistrates.—His Lordship concluded by moving for leave to bring in a Bill for the better preservation of the public peace in certain disturbed districts, for a time to be limitted.

Mr. WHITBREAD observed, that the unsatisfactory Report on the table was all the House had to proceed upon; and to make this Report, the Committee had only been allowed such documents as Ministers thought fit so supply. No distinct combinations had been proved to exist—no army—no leaders.—The tumults originated in the wants of the manufacturers alone. He disliked the system of espionage and the searching for arms. The Noble Lord knew something of these things in Ireland, which had produced horrors at which the mind recoiled. —The rioters had no funds, for the miserable two-penny subscription had even failed. It was impossible to hope for better times, while a large portion of the people were straitened for bread. All the witnesses examined said that their hopes of the restoration of order arose mainly on the prospect of a good harvest. A general Peace was the only real remedy; and in his opinion, we never had a better chance of concluding one than at present. He could not vote for the Bill.

Mr. WILBERFORCE stated, that he entirely approved of the proposed measure. Had the Ministers asked for larger powers, he would have willingly granted them. He thought the disease was of a *political* nature, and had originated in certain mischievous publications, and not in the wants of the people.—(*Hear! hear!*)

Sir F. BURDETT observed, that the Hon. Member seemed disposed to go any lengths with Ministers, even to the renewal of the scenes exhibited in Ireland.—*Torture, to produce confession*, &c. &c.:—(*No, No*;)—Such, he maintained, was the effect of his speech; but he hoped the Noble Lord was not about to enter on the bloody career run by the Irish Government. Every man had a right to keep arms for his defence, and they ought not to be wrested from him. The accounts had been greatly exaggerated, and the Secret Committee had refused to hear any other evidence than that which suited their own views. Of the 40 persons who had met on the Moor, *ten were spies*; and out of this 40, twelve had been convicted. A *boy* of 16, and a *woman* had been hanged at Lancaster for *stealing potatoes!* This was a punishment which could only excite disgust; for there was no equality of punishment and crime. Had these cases been laid before the Regent, he (Sir F.) believed his humanity would have made them objects of royal mercy.

Mr. WILBERFORCE denied that he would support a system of Torture.

Mr. CANNING thought the proposed measures very judicious.

Lord CASTLEREAGH assured the House, that as far as he knew, the Irish Government had never authorized the infliction of torture. Martial law had indeed been proclaimed, and the military had been allowed the power of inflicting the same punishment upon the rebels as was inflicted upon soldiers for offences. This the Hon. Baronet might call torture; but even that punishment was never inflicted for the purpose of extorting information, with the knowledge or permission of Government. He was prepared to defend *every measure* of Lord Camden's Government. He had been libelled repeatedly: but those who knew him knew also that he was incapable of lending his aid to any seemingly harsh or cruel measures, except when he was convinced that such measures were necessary for the safety for the country.

Col. SHIPLEY here positively contradicted his Lordship, affirming that he had himself seen the infliction of torture in Ireland, by order of the High Sheriff of Tipperary. He had *every day* witnessed scenes of men being tied up, and severely flogged, without any Court-martial, for the sole purpose of extorting evidence.

Mr. HUTCHINSON, too, pledged himself to the fact of torture having been used in Ireland: he knew that the greatest atrocities had been perpetrated in the very seat of the Government—under its eye—yes, within its hearing!—(*Hear! hear! hear!*)—He had seen these things; and he therefore hoped the House would be on its guard, before they submitted the country to the direction or the mercy of the Noble Lord, (Castlereagh.)

Lord CASTLEREAGH again declared that the Irish Government had never sanctioned such doings.

Mr. CROKER having denied an assertion made by Mr. HUTCHINSON, the latter Gentleman advised him (Mr. C.) to take care how he ventured to contradict his statements.

Mr. RYDER condemned this language as indecorous. An Hon. Baronet, distinguished for his contempt of all constituted authorities, had mentioned the case of a woman who had been hanged for stealing potatoes: the fact was, she had headed a mob, who had plundered a farmer's cart, and sold the potatoes at her own price to the multitude. This was the offence.

The Bill was brought up.—Mr. WHITBREAD said, he should divide the House on the second reading.

TOLERATION ACT.

Lord CASTLEREAGH brought in a Bill to repeal certain Acts, and to amend others, respecting the worship of Protestant Dissenters.—Adjourned.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, July 7.

Copy of a Letter from Lieutenant Simmonds to Rear-Admiral Foley.

His Majesty's gun-brig Attack, Dover Roads, July 5.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you, that at six P. M. yesterday evening I observed a transport galliot, a sloop, and a privateer, coming out of Calais Harbour, and endeavouring to run along shore: perceiving this to be their intention, and knowing that the shewing a disposition to make an immediate attack would cause them all to put back, or run their vessels on shore, I made sail to windward, in the hope of decoying them so far from their own shore as to be able to cut them off. Judging this to be the proper opportunity for such an attempt, I immediately made all sail in shore, and at half past eight, manned and sent the gig away, with six men, under the direction of Mr. Couney, the Second Master, still keeping his Majesty's brig towards the enemy. At twelve, there being light airs, and within half gun-shot of the enemy's shore, the Second Master discovered the galliot in tow of the privateer.—Mr. Couney, undaunted by such an unequal force, and under the galling fire of their musketry, immediately boarded the transport, while on the other side she was boarded by the privateer's men; but on the second Master's having killed one of their men in boarding, they thought it prudent to desist and sheer off, leaving the boat's crew in possession of their prize,—She proves to be the transport galliot No. 637, of 256 tons burthen, manned with 16 men, and armed with muskets; the privateer was armed with a six-pounder, swivels, cohorns, and musketry, and a complement of 30 men, commanded by Lieutenant de Vaisseau Grothe. It is with great pleasure I have to state, that it has pleased God to spare the lives of the little crew of his Majesty's brig engaged in this contest, who have escaped to a man unhurt. The gallantry displayed by Mr. Couney and the men employed with him, merits any approbation that can be bestowed on them, for, independent of the fire of the enemy's musketry, the vessel was exposed to the batteries, which kept up a fire of round and grape upon them. From his Majesty's brig being becalmed from the time the boat shoved off, I was unable to close with them; my anxiety was great for the fate of the people, but from my knowledge of Mr. Couney's conduct, since he has been with me, I had great confidence in him. I cannot conclude without mentioning the steady conduct of my officers and men throughout the whole of the affair; and had we been so fortunate as to have had a breeze, we, no doubt, should have captured the whole. I have the honour to be, &c.

R. W. SIMMONDS, Lieut. and Commander.

BANKRUPTCY SUPERSEDED.

S. Skipper, Norwich, grocer.

BANKRUPTS.

S. Field, Hooleigh-park, Surrey, dealer.
J. Smith, Chelsea, surgeon.
J. Mark, Queenhithe, malt-factor.
J. Riches, High-Holborn, haberdasher.
T. Wait, Portsea, house-carpenter.
J. Bowker, Tarporley, Cheshire, stay-maker.
G. H. Browne, John-street, Bedford-row, scrivener.
R. Fearns, Twickenham, poulterer.
J. Yates, Manchester, ironmonger.
R. Hadden, Birmingham, victualler.
R. Williams, Worcester, timber-merchant.
A. Whitehead, Barn-within Saddleworth, Yorkshire, clothier.
W. Newton, Davenport, Cheshire, corn-dealer.
F. Brodhurst, Norfolk-street, Strand, merchant.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Downing-street, July 9.

A Dispatch, of which the following is an extract, has been this day received at Lord Bathurst's Office, addressed to the Earl of Liverpool, by General the Earl of Wellington, dated Salamanca, 18th June, 1812:—

The army crossed the Agueda on the 13th inst. and marched forward in three columns, the troops under Don Carlos d'Espana forming a fourth; and the whole arrived upon the Valmusa, a rivulet about six miles from hence, on the 16th. The enemy shewed some cavalry, and a small body of infantry, in front of the town on that day, and manifested a design to hold the heights on the south-side of the Tormes, but their cavalry were immediately driven in by our's; and the enemy evacuated Salamanca on the night of the 16th, leaving a garrison of about 800 men in the fortifications which they had erected on the ruins of the colleges and convents which they have demolished.

By the fire from these they protect the passage of the Tormes, by the bridge; and our troops crossed that river yesterday morning, by two fords which are in this neighbourhood.

The forts were immediately invested by the 6th division, under the command of Major-General Clinton, and having been accurately reconnoitred, it was found necessary to break ground before them; this was done last night, and I hope that we shall commence our fire to-morrow morning from eight pieces of cannon, at the distance of three hundred yards from the principal of the enemy's works, the possession of which will, I hope, give us the possession of the others. Major-General Clinton conducted these operations.

It is impossible to describe the joy of the people of the town upon our entrance. They have now been suffering for more than three years, during which time the French, among other acts of oppression, have destroyed thirteen of twenty-five convents, and twenty-two of twenty-five colleges which existed in this celebrated seat of learning.

The enemy retired by the road to Toro, and their rear-guard was about fifteen miles from hence last night; they retired again this morning by the same road, and I understand that they intend to collect their army on the Douro, between Toro and Zamora.

I enclose a letter from Lieutenant-General Sir Rowland Hill and its enclosures, being two from Major-General Slade, giving an account of an affair which he had with the enemy on the 11th instant, in which, owing to the eagerness and impetuosity of the troops, considerable loss was sustained.

I have reports from the South, stating that General Ballasteros had had an action with the enemy near Bornos on

the 1st instant, of which I have not received the details or any regular confirmation, notwithstanding there is no doubt of the fact. The result has been stated differently by the two parties, and it is reported by the enemy that Ballasteros is badly wounded: but they have reinforced their troops in that direction since the action, from which circumstance it is to be inferred that the success, if on their side at all, was not very decisive.

[General Slade's letter states, that the enemy, on the 11th of June, advanced upon Llera, with the 17th and 29th dragoons, under Gen. L'Allemand. Gen. Slade attacked with the 3d Dragoons and Royals, killed a great number, and pursued them nearly to Maguilla, when he again broke their line, killed many more, and took a French Aid-de-Camp prisoner.—The British loss was severe; for being too eager in pursuit, the enemy brought up a support, and the English were compelled to relinquish their prisoners and fall back upon Llera.]

Return of Casualties in the above affair.

Total—2 serjeants, 21 rank and file killed; 26 rank and file, wounded; 2 officers, 10 serjeants, 106 rank and file, missing; 1 officer's horse wounded; 1 missing; 6 troop horses killed; 14 wounded: 127 missing.

Names of officers.

3d Dragoon Guards—Lieutenant Homewood, missing.
1st Dragoons—Lieutenant Windsor, missing.

A dispatch from Charles Stuart, Esq. at Lisbon, dated June 23, states, that General Drouet, with 7,000 men, had moved forward to Llerena, and that 13,000 men, under Marshal Soult, from Seville, was expected to arrive at St. Ollala on the evening of the 17th June.—General Hill had accordingly marched back to Albuera, where he had been joined by the 5th, 17th, and 22d regiments of the line, the 11th Portuguese Cacadores, and the Spaniards under the Conde de Penne Villemur.—Lieutenant Strobitz, in a skirmish near Llerena, took 25 French dragoons, and an officer, on the 13th.

A letter from Capt. Lennock, of the Raven sloop, off the Scheldt, July 4, gives an account of his having attacked a flotilla of fourteen brigs, and driven three of them ashore, in the face of the French fleet, on a lee shore, and in an intricate passage.—Capt. L. says, he received every assistance from his crew, and from Lieut. Berriff, "an old officer."

BANKRUPTS.

J. Fair, Manchester, warehouseman.
W. Bushy, Duke-street, Manchester-square, haberdasher.
J. O'Brien and Co. Bloomsbury-square, Irish linen-merchants.
J. Bourne, Blackfriar's-road, cheesemonger.
J. Brook, Malton, Yorkshire, grocer.
J. F. Goodwin, Abchurch-lane, tavern-keeper.
S. Dyson, Huddersfield, Yorkshire, spirit-merchant.
R. Hayward, Walworth, Surrey, builder.
J. P. Graddon, Russel-street, Covent Garden, tailor.
G. Hall, Cheapside, milliner.
T. Owen, Whitecross street, Cripplegate, grocer.
C. Mumford, Strood, Kent, grocer.
C. Appleton, Lyme, Dorset, mariner.
M. Isaacs, Sheerness, slopseller.
M. Need, Featherstone-street, City-road, watch case-maker.
J. Robertson, Bush-lane, Cannon-street, merchant.

PRICE OF STOCKS ON SATURDAY.

3 per Cons. Consols....55 3/8 4/2 | Omnium....7/8 1 prem.

ERRATUM.—In the last *Examiner*, Mr. JONES, of the Army Pay-Office, was said to have married a niece of Mr. LUKIN. This is altogether an error, which we hasten to rectify. Mr. JONES is not married, and any inference which may have arisen from the supposed fact must of course fall to the ground.

Various Communications are delayed for want of room.

A BRITISH MERCHANT must send his Communication for perusal, before a promise of insertion can be given.

The Countess of GLENCAIRN's Case shall have all the attention it appears to merit.

THE EXAMINER.

LONDON, JULY 12.

A Mail from Anholt arrived yesterday morning; but it has not brought any account of the commencement of hostilities.

BONAPARTE reached Gumbinnen on the 19th June, a city on the left of the river Pissa, only a few leagues from the Russian frontier, and about 40 miles from Tilsit, where the Russian Emperor formerly made such an absurd figure.

By the Treaty with Austria, she is to furnish France with 30,000 men; and the integrity of the Turkish European Provinces is guaranteed. This is an artful stroke of BONAPARTE, though it is said that Russia and the Porte have concluded a Peace.

A German Paper gives an account of our having debarked a large force, from 60 boats, at La Ciotat, a port in Provence, on the 2d of June, and of our being forced to re-embark with great loss.

The KING's life was thought in danger the beginning of week, and his family assembled at Windsor; but his MAJESTY has since returned to his accustomed melancholy condition.

COMPLETE DEFENCE OF LORD CASTLEREAGH!—"A person in humble life, who perused calumnies against his Lordship so often, that he believed them, had occasion to have an interview with him, and when it was over, said to a friend—'Why now, what big villains must those persons be, for I expected to find him brutal and bloodthirsty, fond of cruelty and torture—but, bless your soul! I never saw a *milder*, *kinder-hearted*, more *affable* man, in my life.'"—*Courier.*

CUSTOMS.—It is to be feared that there are some sad doings of the Board of Customs;—and what is worse, that the Treasury refuse to look into charges, which they have long been earnestly solicited to examine.—Ministers are very sore when complaints are made in Parliament of public men; and Lord CASTLEREAGH would have the complainants seek redress from the inferior officers. But if these officers should not only refuse justice, but even join in the iniquity, what is then to be done?—A Custom-house officer has been dismissed and ruined, as he urges, for doing his duty;—he cannot, he says, get a fair hearing, nor will they allow him the proper documents for his defence against the most false charges. Thus, he adds, is his character injured, and his wife and nine children placed in a situation of the utmost difficulty.—Lord WM. BENTINCK should really see justice done to this officer. When his Lordship was interested about *certain seized goods*, he vouched for the integrity of the man; and though a most shameful union of official persons about the Customs Department seems to have taken place, and has hitherto been too powerful for an individual, yet exposure (and discomfiture, it is to be hoped) ought to take place, and officers of Customs, who are at the same time relations of agents for smugglers, be compelled to retire from situations they certainly ought never to have filled.

provided he has made enough money by it to live at his ease upon?

8. What is the reason, that *during his imprisonment*, he has said nothing against the re-appointment of the Duke of York?

9. What is the reason, that during his imprisonment he has said nothing against the favouritism and bad habits of the Prince of Wales? Or does he think that the private vices of governors, *like those of Reformers*, ought to meet with a respectful silence for the good of morals and the national spirit?

10. and last: Why did he, after years of loud talking, whine so much, and cut such a doleful and helpless figure in his *Register*, at the very thought of going to prison, declaring that for the whole fortnight he could not write a word for the life of him, "his mind and heart were pulled so many different ways," and vowing that it would be affectation in him to attempt it,—thus setting an example of absolute pusillanimity in a Reformist, and injuring the cause and character of public spirit?

Such are a few plain questions, which the public, and some former admirers of Mr. Cobbett, would wish to see answered —He is not going to prison now, and therefore as he can hold a pen steadily, he may have no objection to take a little notice of them.

☞

THE OPERA.

Sir,—The works of Mozart, which have long lain dormant, and enjoyed the repose due to so many of our living manufacturers of music, have at length shone forth from the obscurity in which jealousy and bad taste had involved them. Till the last two or three years, this great genius has been known chiefly as an instrumental writer, and might have still have remained so, had not a society of amateurs, who were capable of perceiving where true merit was to be found, laudably exerted themselves to diffuse the delight his vocal works had given themselves. With this view, and aided by some tasteful professors, they brought forward the Opera of *Don Giovanni*, and followed it up, successively, with performances of two of his other productions, which required only to be heard, to ensure them a high reputation. Till they had gained this, none of the Opera Performers thought of reviving them, and of the four which have been performed at the King's Theatre, only one has been produced by the Manager,—so little have the Public to thank Mr. Taylor for his endeavours in their behalf. The last which has been produced, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, is perhaps, altogether, the finest of his works. The subject is taken, with little alteration, from Beaumarchais' celebrated comedy of "*La Folle Journée*," and, in its quick succession of incident, gives full scope to the fancy, which teemed with delightful combinations of sound, and sprung from subject to subject, with inexhaustible freshness, vigour, and originality. Every air, and almost every close, has strong character of novelty, and seems carefully to shun resemblance to other authors; for even when the passages seem to lead to something we have heard before, a dexterous turn or an unexpected change redeems them from all charge of plagiarism. This attempt at constant novelty would be dangerous in unskilful hands, and might repress merit, or draw it into passages only original for their extravagance. Here, Beethoven, with all his gigantic powers, his wonderful harmony, and splendid effects, seems to have failed; and, without possessing the charms of melody that play so perpetually through the works of Mozart, he sacrifices our pleasure to our astonishment; gaining in novelty what he loses in feeling, and speaking to the ear rather than to the heart.

An Opera, combining such variety of excellence as *Figaro*, requires a proportionate combination of musical talent in those who are to execute it. And here, unfortunately, with the exception of two Performers, there is at the King's Theatre a woeful deficiency. These two are, Madame Catalani and Mrs. Dickons. The vivacity of the former, so misplaced in her serious performances, comes into full play in the character of the chambermaid *Susannah*, and there is something very pleasing in the archness of her manner, and the eager interest with which she enters into all the schemes that are to extricate her mistress and herself from the dilemmas in which they are constantly involved. Mrs. Dickons, who has been judiciously engaged to assist the performance, gives a gratifying instance of good taste, in abstaining considerably from that excess of ornament in which she too often indulges, and which, like the hoop and embroidery of a court dress, serves only to incumber and disfigure the beauty it is intended to adorn. Her acting too gives her a decided superiority to all but Madame Catalani, and ought to afford the Italians an instructive lesson of the advantages which even a foreigner can obtain over them, by a proper attention to the business of the piece. Signor Fischer performs the *Count Almaviva*, and proves as clearly as in *Camilla*, that unless he could get rid of his voice, his figure, and his rough German accent, he cannot reasonably hope to become a favourite. The soft flow of the Italian language he converts into most rugged and guttural sounds, and his voice is accompanied with a strong breathing, that, overwhelming the notes he would utter, produces a tone more like the bellows of an organ than that instrument itself. He however breathes in tune, and that is a praise due to no other male performer at the theatre.

Mr. Didelot has produced a new ballet, called *La Reine de Golconde*, which details very unintelligibly a most improbable story from the Tales of M. De Bouvtleas. H.R.

NATIONAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION.

Two Lectures have recently been delivered in this Metropolis by Mr. Hervé, on the Sufferings of the Middle Classes of People, and explanatory of a Plan for their relief, by Subscriptions of Five Shillings per Annum. As the substance of them shall appear in some future paper, it is unnecessary now to expatiate on the benefits to be expected from the full establishment of this most laudable Institution: those benefits are well shown in the Lecture, which is to be repeated on Thursday next *, in Park-street Chapel, Grosvenor-square, by the special permission of the liberal and Reverend Proprietor, who has thus shewn himself to be truly a Minister of Charity. And here it would be improper not to notice the generous conduct of Earl Manvers and his Lady, at whose mansion Mr. Hervé delivered his first lecture in London. Not only were their rooms thrown open for the visitors, but refreshments were furnished by the Noble Hosts, in a manner

* Persons are admitted by Cards, which may be had *gratis* of most of the booksellers at the west end of the town. No money is received at the Chapel. The object of the Lecturer is to make his plan generally known.

equally bountiful and becoming. The Earl and his Countess possibly thought that they should derive quite as much satisfaction from thus devoting their house, with the attendant cost, to a benevolent purpose, as if they had given a rout or a masquerade, where, instead of hearing a sensible and highly interesting lecture, they might have been harassed by stupid puns, stale jokes, and vacant laughter. At all events, it will be hazarding nothing to affirm, that the exertions of that day neither disturbed their repose, nor sent them to it with aching heads or hearts.

Mr. Herve, the founder of this Institution, is the son of a respectable merchant, and though his time is necessarily much occupied by his profession of a miniature painter, he has most ardently and disinterestedly devoted himself, for these eight years, in bringing forward this humane Institution, through all sorts of difficulties. In Bath and Cheltenham it is already in active operation; and it cannot be doubted, that in London a sufficient number of persons will be found both willing and able to fix it upon an extensive and permanent foundation. More than *five shillings* a-year need not be subscribed, though larger sums will of course be taken.—If the readers of the *Examiner*, after having perused the plan,—and it is hoped that they will not only read but *remember* it—discover in it the means of rescuing from wretchedness some of the most respectable and afflicted of the human race, it is presumed that they will not hesitate a moment in affording it their warm recommendation and active patronage.

MR. COBBETT'S LIBERATION DINNER.

On Thursday, Sir Francis Burdett, Major Cartwright, Messrs. Bosville, Brown, Fawkes, and Waithman—Alderman Goodbehere and Wood, with many other persons, assembled at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, to celebrate the liberation of Mr. William Cobbett from Newgate. After dinner, Sir F. Burdett, who presided, gave the following toast, which was drunk with rapture:—

"The Prince Regent—May he call to mind the declaration of the Prince of Wales, that the Crown is held in trust for the benefit of the People."

The next toast was—"The People, the source of all power."—It was drunk with three times three, the band playing "Liberty Hall." It was followed by—"A free Press, and free Discussion," which received similar honour. Mr. Dignum gave a song, written for the occasion; after which, Sir F. Burdett then proposed—

"Our sincere congratulations on the release of that able Advocate of Parliamentary Reform, and zealous Opposer of the Flogging System—WILLIAM COBBETT." It was drunk with three times three, and continued applause.

Mr. COBBETT here rose and thanked the company for the honour they had done him. He said, that not being used to public speaking, he had not intended to have said more; but the *Times* Newspaper and another paper having just been put into his hands, containing some severe accusations against him, he could not refuse a reply. The paper distributed in the room charged him with having altered his opinions, and with having ten years ago spoken with boldness and harshness of the Hon. Baronet who now presided. In doing this, he had only exercised the right they were all contending for; and supposing he had been wrong, he had since fairly and candidly acknowledged his error. Alteration of sentiment is not to be deemed a demerit in any man, unless it should appear that such alteration had been caused by interested motives. (*Applauses*). He was very certain, that neither friends nor enemy would deny, that in changing his opinions respecting the Hon. Baronet, he did not consult the truth. (*Hear.*) Ten years ago, we had treated their Chairman with undeserved severity, and in what an amiable light does he now appear, and how provoked are his antagonists, while they behold him maintaining, not the man, but the principle. (*Increased plaudits.*) With respect to the charges in the *Times* (that he had, by pressing his readers to buy up the sets of his *Register*, indirectly endeavoured to raise money from the public to pay the expences of his prosecution, when he, by the public patronage, had been so fully enabled to defray them himself; and that, with a view to mitigate the sentence of the Court of King's Bench, he had made a proposal to discontinue the publication of his *Register*) with respect to these charges, he had only to declare, that the whole, as far as they accused him of any slavish or corrupt act or motive, was a tissue of falsehood. (*Hear, hear!*) The Advertisement * inserted in the *Times* he had designed for publication in the *Register* a short time before he was sent to prison, not because he repented of any thing he had said or done, but because he was apprehensive that he could not exercise the same liberty he had before enjoyed, and because he would not consent to lower the tone he had held. (*Repeated cheers.*) "After it had been put into the post, (continued Mr. C.) on reflection by Mr. Finnerty and myself (who was with me, and will bear testimony to the truth of my statement), we determined, on the following day, that since it might be construed into an abandonment of the cause, it would be better that it should not be inserted, at least until the Court of King's Bench had pronounced upon me the sentence it chose to inflict. On Thursday, therefore, it was resolved that Mr. Finnerty should proceed to London to stop the publication, as no answer could be received in time by the post. He did so; so that it is impossible that my conduct could have been influenced by any considerations of the consequences that might result to my person or property."—Mr. Cobbett then drew a picture of imprisonment in Newgate for what is termed a libel.—"In the first place," said he, "it was two years imprisonment; but it is not mere confinement in a house, but imprisonment with the most degraded felons, unless you can redeem yourself from their society at an enormous price: two years' imprisonment means being shut up for that time in a place, with a yard of 35 one way, and about 25 feet the other, to which belong a number of rooms, having the appearance of and being in reality cells, in each of which are four or five beds, with as many persons as they will hold, consisting, not of persons guilty of libels, or of similar offences, but of persons convicted of felony and misdemeanours, even those who have been found guilty of unnatural crimes.—Such is the situation to which I was destined to be sent by the Court of King's Bench, and where our venerable friend,

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* "TO THE READERS OF THE REGISTER.

"As I never have *written merely for the sake of gain*, and as I have always held it to be a base act to write upon political subjects, or, more correctly speaking, to take a part in the war of politics, merely with a view to emolument or the means of a livelihood, I cannot of course, after what has taken place, think it proper, let the pecuniary loss be what it may, to continue any longer this publication; and therefore, with this present number, which also concludes the volume, *I put an end to it for ever.* I hardly think that any statement of my reasons for doing this can be necessary to any body; for it must be manifest, that if the work were continued, *it could not be what it has been*, and, of course, it could no longer meet with the approbation of those by whom it has hitherto been approved of. It is manifest, that, if continued, it must take quite a new tone and manner; nay, that its matter must also be changed; that, in short, it must be totally different to (from) what it has hitherto been; and, therefore, those who have most highly valued its existence, must, of course, be the most desirous that it should now cease to exist.—I know that there will, nevertheless, be enough persons to say that I have *deserted the cause*; but I shall ask, *whose cause?* It is, I presume, meant, the cause of *the public*, or *the people*, or *the country*,—give it what name you please. Well, if the putting a stop to this work be an injury to the country, let it be recollected that it is *the country itself* who have condemned me."

Major Cartwright, first visited me. Here were also to be found Hazlett and a man who was transported to Botany Bay the ensuing morning: so that had I not redeemed myself from this society by my purse, I should for two years have been confined with the most abandoned felons.—(*Loud applause.*) It is not, therefore, absolutely a bed of roses to which they send a man when he goes to Newgate.—(*Laughter.*)—Mr. Eaton is now confined there. He is sentenced to be there imprisoned for 22 months, and to stand once in the pillory. In the same place, since I was in Newgate, was a man found guilty of an unnatural crime, who was sentenced to stand once in the pillory, and to be imprisoned only 12 months.—(*Reiterated shouts.*)—Such is the equality in the distribution of justice. I mention this fact that the case of Mr. Eaton may particularly attract your notice.—(*Hear, hear.*)—Having said so much, I will not further trespass upon your time: I shall only conclude by observing, that if I wanted any tie to bind me faster to the cause of liberty, that motive, I trust, would be found in the gratitude I shall always feel for the honour you have done me."

Mr. Cobbett sat down amidst shouts of applause that shook the room for some minutes; and

Sir F. Burdett then proposed the following toasts:—

"The Memory of William Prynn, who, after being punished as a Seditious Libeller, for exposing the Corruption of the Court, lived to bring his Prosecutor and unjust Judge to the Block."

"Mr. Drakard, and the other Victims of Ex-Officio Informations."

Mr. Graves, in a short speech, proposed the following toast, which was drunk with most enthusiastic clamour:—

"May the Servants of the People be prevented from becoming their Masters, by that Radical Reform proposed by that firm Opposer of undefined Privilege—Sir Francis Burdett."

Sir F. Burdett said, that the subject which had immured Mr. Cobbett in a jail, could not be thought of without horror. Instead of being punished by an imprisonment he had so meritoriously endured, he ought to have been rewarded by a civic crown, for his exertions against a system which was literally the scourge of the nation. (*Applauses.*) They had met to congratulate Mr. C. on his enfranchisement, a man whose merits were so well understood, that praise was now superfluous; whose pen was too powerful an instrument not to make a due impression on the public mind; and who, notwithstanding the unhandsome attack made upon him, would, the Hon. Baronet trusted, always stand the test of public opinion. (*Hear, hear.*) Sir F. then remarked on the notoriously and confessedly unconstitutional power usurped by the King's General Attorney, of filing informations *ex officio*. (*Repeated cheers*). It was a power assumed without reason or common sense, against positive law, which enabled a man, at will, to punish another for an undefinable offence, for such, he contended, a libel to be. Gentlemen would recollect also what sort of a thing a trial was when the King named the Judges—(*Hear!*).—King James, when he came to the throne, inquired what power he should have, and being informed that he had the nomination of the Bishops and Judges, he declared that he could have such law and such gospel as he pleased—(*a laugh*).—The assertion was now very nearly verified, in contempt of what were called the barbarous opinions of our rude and uncivilized ancestors, who had said, that no Englishman's life and fortune should depend upon his country alone, for which purpose the *Trial by Jury* had been established. This institution was at present almost annihilated by the assumption of the King's Attorney General, and by the usurpation of the Master of the Crown Office, who had the power of selecting the Jury—(*Cheering.*)—Even Judge Blackstone, formerly considered a servile Court Lawyer, had condemned the issue of *Ex-Officio* informations, excepting in cases were the public safety was immediately endangered, and now, by some strange perversion, was called a Jacobinical writer—(*Hear, hear!*)—A libel by no ingenuity could be converted into an offence immediately endangering the safety of the State. To talk of free discussion now was a mere mockery! When they stood up as advocates for the Liberty of the Press, they did not stand up for calumniators, but they stood up in support of free discussion. Free discussion was the life and soul, or rather it was the evidence of the very existence of freedom. He who could and would enter upon it, might do so, if he chose to run the risk; he who would not, might hold his peace. As matters now stood, however, to adventure upon discussion with impunity was hardly possible. One might be found, who, like Daniel, would be ready to consent to be thrown into the Den of Lions, rather than forego his opinions—but he could not, like Daniel, have any chance of escaping. Few, if any, ever escaped, who came into the hands of the Attorney General in modern times. Could any man doubt this, when it was seen that the gentleman next him, whose liberation they had met that day to celebrate, had been imprisoned, fined, &c. merely for decrying the practice of calling a man from the plough to have his flesh torn from his bones; and this too in the presence of German troops, whose mere appearance in this land, in former times, would have been enough to have converted the whole country into a forest of arms. The honourable gentleman to whom he had alluded, however, was not to be deterred even by such a punishment. He knew how little he was, compared with the country. He reflected on the dignity of his mind; and considered that though he might even fall in the cause, like a Sydney or a Russell, no man of feeling could consider his as a lot to be avoided, but rather as one to be envied. He said what he did now, not with the view of calling the attention of the Meeting to the case of Mr. Cobbett, but to that of Mr. Eaton, who, after great sufferings, was now, at an advanced age, a prisoner in Newgate, suffering for a crime which, when compared with others, was as nothing. He hoped on some future occasion, something might be done to relieve this unfortunate man, and trusted he would feel an advocate in every breast. The Hon. Baronet concluded by expressing a hope that he should always merit the reception he had met with this day; he should be sorry not to receive it; and he was determined always to deserve it.—This speech was received throughout with bursts of applause.

The Chairman then proposed as a sentiment,—"A Revision of the Penal Code—May it be rendered more severe against Public Depredators and less severe against starving Manufacturers."

After a song from a gentleman of the name of Wright—the Chairman gave—"Civil and Religious Liberty all over the World."—The Rev. Mr. Nightingale then addressed the Meeting, declaring that it would be found to be a never-failing observation, that Enemies to Religious Liberty were Enemies to Civil Liberty also. As a Christian, too, he must protest against the unchristian punishment inflicted on Mr. Eaton.

A Gentleman named Collyer here demanded an explanation from Mr. Cobbett respecting the charges brought against him in the *Times* newspaper, to which, he thought, no satisfactory answer had yet been given.—Upon this Mr. Cobbett rose, and remarked, that he had alluded to these charges, which were, 1st. That he had not agreed to an open subscription, but that he had contrived to accomplish the same object in an indirect way. How, he would ask, had he done this?—Why, by advertising for sale a certain number of books which he had printed, which he then had in his possession, and which he all along intended for sale. The fact was, a subscription had been proposed to him, but he had declined it. He hoped there was nothing offensive in this. But when he had in his hands many sets of the same *Register*, for which he had been prosecuted, was it unreasonable that he should call the attention of his friends to this circumstance, and should offer them for sale? The Gentleman had maintained, that he had realised property sufficient to indemnify him for all his losses! Did he, therefore, mean to say, that he ought not to have offered his books for sale? He had never in his life, though he had been repeatedly offered it, received a single farthing of the public money. He had never received nor solicited a favour for himself or any of his friends. What he had, therefore, he conceived belonged to himself. That he was not so poor as some persons, against whom *ex officio* in-

formations had been filed, he admitted. He had risen from the rank of a private soldier in the army, and after serving his country for eight years in that capacity, had been enabled, by the exertion of his own mind, to realise any property which he now possessed. He thanked no man for this, not even the public. He did not even say in his advertisement that he would thank any one who would buy his books. But if had a right to sell his own property, he presumed to think he had answered this part of the charge.—The second charge was, that after the conviction he had intended to give up the publication of the *Register*. He surely had a right to discontinue his *Register*, if he inclined. He had not contracted with the public to continue it for any particular period. Supposing he had made, according to his own ideas, a sufficient sum of money to enable him to cease from labouring any farther, surely he had a right to do so. The bare circumstance of his discontinuing his publication, therefore, could have nothing in it whatever. If he had, indeed, made it a condition of his punishment being remitted or mitigated—if he had made a proposition agreeing to discontinue his *Register*, if the Attorney-General would remit his punishment; or if he had even acceded to such a proposition when made to him, then he would have abandoned his principles. This, however, he utterly denied. He denied distinctly that he ever had made such a proposition—that such a proposition had ever been made to him—that he had ever entertained such an idea—or had ever even thought of it.

Mr. COLLYER again rose, but the tumult occasioned by those who wished him to be heard, and by those who wished to prevent him, was so great, as to render it impossible to distinguish a single word.

Sir FRANCIS BURDETT recalled to the recollection of the Meeting, that they were here assembled in support of the right of free and impartial discussion, He was sure, therefore, he needed not to put in a plea of equity in favour of every person who wished to address them. Here there were no packed Jury —no sham Representation.

Mr. COLLYER said, that he had no objection to state to the Meeting, that his name was Collyer. They had misapprehended his intention; all he wished was, that calumny should be distinctly refuted, and he was happy to hear the direct negative put upon the charges by Mr. Cobbett. As the accusation had been public, so he wished the vindication to be public also. He could not agree with the assertion of Mr. Cobbett, that he had a right to discontinue his Register at pleasure, because he had gained a competence; if the cause in which that publication had been employed, were good, and if its support in any degree depended upon it, it was a duty that he owed to the cause to persist in it.

The Chairman then proposed, "Success to the South American Patriots." Which was drunk with three.—The next toast was, "May the oppression of the People of Ireland speedily be removed."—After a Song from Mr. Dignum, the Chairman gave,

"May Foreign Mercenaries be sent back to their own country, which they did not defend, and may England return to its Constitutional Defence,—Arms in the hands of Free Men."—"The Patriotic Electors of Westminster—may their example, in returning Members to Parliament free of Expence, be followed throughout the Kingdom."—This toast was drunk with three times three.

On the health of "Major Cartwright and the Cause of Reform," being given,

The Major returned thanks, informing the Meeting that a Requisition was in preparation, directed to the High Bailiff of Westminster, requesting him to call a Meeting for the purpose of petitioning for Parliamentary Reform as a matter of right; and he was happy to think that similar measures were pursuing in the country.

The Chairman then gave, "The Navy—May promotion be gained by merit, and not by Borough Interest."—Major Cartwright gave,—"Aldermen Wood and Goodbehere, and the Friends of Liberty in the City of London;" which was drunk with three times three.

Mr. Alderman WOOD returned thanks, declaring that his exertions and his purse should always be devoted to the interests of Freedom.

About half-past nine, the company began to disperse.

BRISTOL ELECTION.

BRISTOL, JULY 5.—The storm of Tuesday night has been followed by a dead calm, which is likely to continue, as the police have adopted strong measures, and the military are ready to act at a moment's notice. There were some appearance of tumult last evening. Mr. Hunt, after having polled *nine* during the day, proceeded to the Exchange, about four o'clock, and addressed the populace, telling them that as the military had been called in, and as he had proof in his pocket of the other party having bribed a voter, the election would be void, and they would have to begin *de novo*. In conclusion, he said, that at six o'clock he intended to *take an airing* to Clifton, and invited them to meet him at that hour. Between six and seven o'clock the procession made its appearance, Mr. Hunt, on horseback, with a —— Doctor on his right, and a knight of the last on his left; his other *supporters* were a motley crew, composed of all that is vile and filthy in Bristol, without one individual of the least respectability in character or appearance. This, however, did not disturb the complacent feelings of the candidate, as he smiled condescendingly on the crowd, and seemed highly pleased with the *honours* which were paid him. On their route to Clifton, a circumstance occurred which was rather degrading to the majesty of the mob. The shipwrights at Messrs. Hillhouse's yard had notice of their approach, and having armed themselves with clubs, they hoisted the blue colours, ranged themselves on both sides of the road, and as Mr. Hunt and his friends passed, they were compelled to endure the cheers of the shipwrights in favour of Mr. Davis. At Clifton the military were on duty, and two or three of Mr. Hunt's friends were taken into custody by the constables for insulting the Magistrates, but nothing farther occurred deserving of notice. Mr. Hunt himself never has been popular; and were it not for the sake of opposition to the other candidate, I am persuaded that the lower orders would have long ago hooted him out of the city. You may give implicit credit to the fact, that he is not countenanced by one individual of respectability; and he has not been able to find one man in the profession of the law who would undertake to assist him *professionally* at the hustings, although, according to his own confession at the Guildhall on Tuesday, he offered to pay their fees every morning, previously to the commencement of the poll. Even the lower classes begin to be disgusted with his conduct, and his appearance in public is now cheered only by the lowest of the low. What would you think of a *Gentleman*, who, whilst publicly addressing the electors of the second city in the empire, should pull aside the skirts of his coat, and slap his open hand on his seat of honour, repeating this act of indecency, as a token of defiance to his antagonists? But this is nothing compared to many other vagaries I have witnessed since Monday last. By accident a well-dressed young woman, attracted by her curiosity, was seated amongst the other party. Mr. Hunt took advantage of it, insisted that *his* female friends might also be allowed to see the fun—left the Hall and returned with three women of the lowest description, picked up in the street, calling out "room for the ladies," and placed them near him; one of them was a mere *poissarde*, and had bended one of his mobs. He told the people that he had made some of the blue money fly, and that a good deal more should follow; though, added he, "after all, it is mere ragged paper, which Davis, being a banker, can make for three-pence, and call it a pound!" He says, he was only *tickling* the adversary yesterday, but that on Monday he will astonish them. Mr. Hunt's exertions during the week have had a visible effect on his health; but I must do him the justice to say, that he keeps his *temper* wonderfully, although he keeps it at the expence of his *dignity*.—Cobbett is still in nomination, but no one receives votes for him, and therefore his name appears with an O at the end of it.

LAW.

HIGH COURT OF DELEGATES, SERJEANTS'-INN-HALL.

Monday, July 6.

HENRY, OTHERWISE HENRY STAPLE SMITH, APPELLANT, v. AFRA, OTHERWISE AFFARY HUSON, RESPONDENT.

This is the first appeal cause that has ever been preferred to the Court of Delegates, on the Marriage Act of the 26th of Geo. II. c. 33. The case was as follows:—The appellant, then just released from his apprenticeship to a grocer at Croydon, Surrey, married at St. George's Church, Hanover-square, on the 8th of December, 1806, the respondent, the daughter of a plumber and glazier at Croydon, while a minor of only 17 years of age, without the knowledge of her father, Mr. Ralph Huson, who died six months after the solemnization of the marriage. Miss Huson returned to her father's house on the day of her marriage, and continued to reside there until a considerable time after her father's decease. The husband commenced a suit in the Ecclesiastical Court in the year 1809, for nullity of marriage, on the ground that the marriage was void under the 11th section of the Marriage Act, as having been had without the consent of the respondent's father, she being a minor. Sir JOHN NICHOLL, however, before whom the case came in the Ecclesiastical Court, implied such consent, and pronounced in favour of it; and the appeal was now made to this Court by the husband.

The question was, whether the father's consent to the respondent's marriage, as implied under the following evidence, could satisfy the words of the Act of Parliament, which invalidated every marriage which should be solemnized without the consent of the father or guardian of a minor first had and obtained.

To the sixth article of the said allegation, the deponent (the respondent's mother) says, that although the said Ralph Huson gradually declined in his health, from the latter end of Sept. or beginning of October, 1805, until the time of his death, yet he was sensible, and able to converse with the deponent and his children until a very few days before his death; and told the deponent how he wished her to act after his death, and not to continue in business, but to leave it, and go and retire, and to help his children into business as well as her circumstances would allow; and in a conversation with his eldest daughter, Mary Huson, spinster, since married to Richard Messenger, he said, "Mary, I am not unhappy about you, but Afra is rather giddy; I am rather uneasy about her." To which the said Mary Huson replied, "Father, don't make yourself uneasy, for Henry Smith and Afra either is married, or soon will be." And the said Ralph Huson put his two hands together, and said, "Thank God! Mary, you have made me quite happy."

The appellant's Counsel relied upon Lord Mansfield's interpretation of the Marriage Act, in the case of the King v. the Inhabitants of Hodnett, "Before this Act of Parliament passed, by the laws then in being, if a man and woman made a contract in private *per verba de presenti*, and kept it a secret, and afterwards there was a public marriage solemnized by either of them, and issue born of that marriage, nevertheless the private contract took place of the subsequent marriage, because the canon law compelled a strict observance of those contracts, and decreed them to be solemnized in the face of the church. Therefore, clandestine marriages were so far *practicable*, that the Courts would not avoid the contract; but still they were contrary to law, although not vacated. To prevent these illegal practices, which were become so very enormous that places were set apart in the Fleet, and other prisons, for the purpose of celebrating clandestine marriages, this act was introduced to render that less practicable, which was before illegal." In the present case, it was quite clear that the appellant could not have procured the consent of the respondent's father to the marriage, otherwise he would not have voluntarily perjured himself by swearing she was of age, in order to procure the license. The evidence was clear, that the father had encouraged the addresses of the appellant; but consent to courtship was not consent to matrimony; it was at most consent only to prospective and future matrimony; there must be consent to the actual contract "first had (asked), and obtained." The Learned Counsel for the appellant treated this as a dry question of law, and called upon their Lordships to decide the case as if the father of the respondent were asking for sentence of nullity, and not the appellant himself, with whose moral conduct the Court had nothing to do. The Act of Parliament was passed in favour of the rights of parents and guardians, and against both the parties to an illegal marriage, and even against their innocent children. [There was a child in the present case.]

The Counsel for the respondent allowed the clandestinity of the marriage, but relied upon the implied consent, and the decision in their favour, of the Court of Peculiars. The Marriage Act said nothing of the mode in which the father's consent was to be given,—nothing about writing; and in Swinburne on Spousals, it was laid down, that all consent of parties *inter se*, were to be expounded with all favour in furtherance of matrimony, which the Learned Counsel extended by analogy to the consents of parents and guardians; and in sect. 12, par. 24, page 132, of that book, facit Consent was favoured. They could not refrain from inveighing against the enormity of the appellant's conduct, in first seducing the respondent into marriage, and then attempting to annul a marriage which he had effected by perjury, by taking advantage of his own wrong.

After remaining for some time in consultation, the Judges Delegates postponed their decision of this important case.

POLICE.

MARLBOROUGH-STREET.

John Cooper and his wife were examined on suspicion of having poisoned four of their children by arsenic. Two of the children had died, and the others were not expected to survive. The parents were very much affected, and there seemed every reason to believe that the arsenic had been given by mistake for medicine. This was the Magistrate's opinion, and the parents were ordered to remain prisoners in their own house, till the Coroner's Jury had given their verdict, under the care of a Police Officer.

ACCIDENTS, OFFENCES, &c.

An inquisition was taken on Tuesday at Pimlico, on the body of Frederick Beck, who hung himself at his lodgings, in Belgrave Place, Grosvenor Mews, on Friday. The deceased, who was a wheelwright, had for some time paid his addresses to a young woman in the same neighbourhood. An altercation took place between them, when the female apprised him that she should dispense with his company, and which had such an effect on him, that he returned home, and hung himself immediately afterwards. Verdict,—Insanity.

On Friday, as a Gentleman was returning to town from Southall, while crossing the bridge over the Paddington Canal, his horse took fright (at a man jumping out of a stage waggon) and plunged over the wall into the water; but by the timely assistance of some bargemen on the spot, he was taken out without any serious injury.—The horse was drowned.

MARRIAGES.

On Thursday morning, at St. Clement Danes, A. Knight, Esq. of Budge-row, to Miss Mary Wilson, Strand.

DEATHS.

On Sunday last, George Ross, Esq. at Welsh Pool, Montgomeryshire, youngest son of the late Gilbert Ross, Esq. of Billiter-lane.

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